

TEES VALLEY

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

17 September 2019

Middlesbrough Regeneration Room Civic Centre

Attending – Yvonne Ramage(YR), Mike Cherrett (MC), Mike Roff (MR), Paul Harman(PH), David Reed(DR), Peter Clark(PC), Leanne Thompson (LT), Chris Scaife(CS), Stewart Williams(SW), Rob Morrow(RM), Fran Manancourt – Tees Valley Combined Authority (FM)

Apologies – Steve Petch (SP), Christine Corbett (CC), Rob Brown(RB), Graham Clingan(GC).

Introduction and Welcome

MR welcomed everyone to the meeting

Minutes of 17th July AGM/meeting and Matters Arising

It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

Fran Manancourt – Sustainable Transport Plan and Cycling & Walking Policy/Plan

FM provided handouts of the Draft Strategic Transport Plan Summary and a map of the National Cycle Network across the Tees Valley.

FM spoke about the background of the TVCA and the reason for the Strategic Transport Plan. He advised that the plan will look to reduce casualties, improve perceptions of walking/cycling, increase provision for bike use especially to help people get to and from work, improve links for tourism and improve infrastructure for all. He also advised that the TVCA are currently completing audits to highlight key corridors and gaps, they will then work on a priority basis to focus on areas that will have the biggest impact for all. FM discussed that the key corridors would be linked to bus/trains stations wherever possible. He then went on to explain that they would like to improve the Mandale Interchange as they are aware this is a major concern for cyclists.

SW raised a point that Middlesbrough doesn't have 'outlying villages' that need linking into the centre, as Middlesbrough is fairly compact; he asked whether the TVCA had considered links between Middlesbrough and Great Ayton/Guisborough for recreational use or whether the focus was on getting people to and from work. FM to look into this as part of the consultation process.

Maintenance of the newly created corridors as well as existing paths was discussed. SW explained that Middlesbrough relies quite heavily on volunteers to help maintain the paths. Stewart explained that Tees Valley Wild Life Trust assists with this. People can apply to be a volunteer via the website and it is quite straight forward.

FM agreed to attend another meeting in the future to keep the TVLAF updated with where the newly created corridors are planned and how Teesside is doing in relation to the rest of the UK.

Local Authority Access Officers Updates

Darlington

LT to send out SP's report. LT explained that SP had attended a meeting with Parish Councils and provided them with a TVLAF promotional leaflet but to date have not heard anything from them.

Middlesbrough

SW discussed that the council has 40km of new ROW which are not recorded or adopted. A volunteer is currently producing maps of the 128 new paths. On top of the 40km of unrecorded paths SW is expecting to get approx. 30km of new paths from new housing developments.

SW explained that he will be formally consulting the TVLAF at the next meeting regarding the diversion at Grey Towers - trying to move a footpath for a new circular bridleway. (Add to Agenda)

Stockton

RM highlighted that this year has been the worst year for vegetation growth. Hogweed has been a real issue on the banks of the River Tees and has been spreading exceptionally quickly. RM has used Stockton's internal staff bulletin to advise anyone walking the paths across the borough can highlight issues directly to him (LT to send out RM's report)

Hartlepool

CS discussed he is project managing a new pilgrimage trail from Hartlepool to Whitby. This will be the first time a smart phone app will be used as a long distance route guide. Due to be launched March 8th – International women's day. (LT to send out CS's report)

Member's activities

England Coast Path (ECP)

CS reported that the ECP between Newport Bridge and North Gare will be officially opened tomorrow. This will mean the ECP will be open from Filey in North Yorkshire to Amble in Northumberland. CS advised that everyone is relieved at its success as its plan will be used to help other areas with estuaries.

Website/Facebook

LT explained that the new website is almost ready to 'go live'. Photos are needed for a few places in Stockton - RM to take some new photos. The TVLAF can have a new email address that doesn't end in @hartlepool.gov.uk – members to send suggestions to LT – bikeridewalk@, ridebikewalk@.

Discussed:

- Whether members are happy for their names/bio's to be on the website – agreed to send annual report to members (members bio's are on back page) - Bio's can be checked and amended if required.
- Current application form – too formal and asks for too much detail. Agreed this is something that needs updating. MR, PH and LT agreed to look into this.

- Members to email suggestions of groups to link up with via Facebook. Agreed to make page public once website is ready to go live.

Bridleway

CS discussed that he is looking into upgrading a current footpath between Dalton Piercy and Summerhill into a Bridleway. CS suggested each authority may want to show improvement in their equestrian provision. SW is already looking at increasing the bridleways in Middlesbrough at the Grey Towers development and RM has plans in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan to improve equestrian provision from Thornaby to Stainton in Middlesbrough

GDPR

MR explained briefly why consent to share personal information between forum members is required. LT to email the 2 remaining members who have not replied to the initial email requesting consent.

Any other Business

MR sent a letter to all members and officers prior to the meeting. A suggestion which may increase membership was to hold 6 meetings a year, 1 in each authority that focuses solely on that area, then hold 2 main LAF. (Add to agenda.)

Date/Venue next meeting.

Wednesday 4th December at Kingsway House in Billingham – RM has booked room.